



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

EDITORIAL

**JOURNAL OF
THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Published Quarterly by the Society at Springfield, Illinois
JESSIE PALMER WEBER, Editor

Associate Editors:

J. H. Burnham Andrew Russel
H. W. Clendenin William A. Meese
George W. Smith E. C. Page

Applications for Membership in the Society may be sent to the Secretary of the Society, Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Springfield, Illinois.

Membership Fee, One Dollar, Paid Annually. Life Membership, \$25.00

VOL. VI

JANUARY, 1914

No. 4

THE GETTYSBURG SEMI-CENTENNIAL

On November 19, 1913, the Illinois State Historical Society held a special meeting in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery, November 19, 1863, at which time Mr. Lincoln delivered the immortal Gettysburg address.

Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, the President of the Society, introduced Governor Dunne, who presided. The Governor in a most happy manner spoke of the meaning of the celebration, and of the beauty and wisdom of the Gettysburg address. His presence and interest was much appreciated by the Society.

The program as printed in the October Journal of the Society was exactly carried out.

It was one of the most successful and largely attended meetings ever given by the Society.

An impressive feature was the presence of Stephenson Post G. A. R., of Springfield. The veterans, headed by the color bearer, marched into the Senate chamber, where the meeting was held, and they were received with great enthusiasm. The soldiers who were at the battle of Gettysburg were asked to come to the platform and Mr. Everett Jennings, the principal speaker of the evening, addressed them and the other soldiers

in a most eloquent manner. The Woman's Relief Corps was also present, and occupied seats specially reserved for them.

The address of Judge J. O. Cunningham, of Urbana, on his personal recollections of Mr. Lincoln, was a most interesting talk. Judge Cunningham is one of the founders of the Historical Society, and has been one of its directors since its organization. He is in excellent health and is vigorous, and his voice is good. His intimate relations with Mr. Lincoln and his affectionate recollections of his great friend made his address most affecting and inspiring, and seemed to bring Mr. Lincoln very close to the minds and hearts of the audience.

The address of Mr. Everett Jennings was most eloquent and appropriate.

Prof. F. G. Blair, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoke of the influence of Abraham Lincoln upon the school children of America, and related many anecdotes of the value of the life of Lincoln as an inspiration and example to the youth of the country. The address was admirable in every way.

EXERCISES AT GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

FOUR WHO HEARD SPEECH, PRESENT ON ANNIVERSARY

Gettysburg, Pa., on Nov. 19, 1913, did honor to the fiftieth anniversary of the delivery of Lincoln's address on the occasion of the consecration of the soldiers' national cemetery November 19, 1863. Special exercises were held in a local theatre at which addresses were made by four citizens who heard Lincoln fifty years ago—former Judge William T. McClean, Prof. J. Calvin Hamilton, Dr. T. C. Billheimer and Dr. P. M. Bikle. The oration was delivered by the Rev. J. B. Baker, and the history of the cemetery was recited by William McSherry.

MARRIED SIXTY YEARS

JUDGE AND MRS. J. O. CUNNINGHAM RECEIVE FRIENDS IN OBSERVANCE OF ANNIVERSARY ON OCTOBER 13, 1913

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Cunningham celebrated on Monday, October 13, 1913, the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage. The season also marked a like period of their continuous residence in Champaign County. On that day, between the hours

of 2.30 and 5 P. M., and also between the hours of 7 and 9 P. M., they received, informally and socially, all friends who called upon them at their residence, 922 West Green St., Urbana.

The Historical Society congratulates the Judge and Mrs. Cunningham upon this happy occasion and wishes for them many more years of life and happiness.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

Exercises commemorative of the long services of Reuben Gold Thwaites to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, were held in the Assembly Chamber in the State Capitol at Madison at four-thirty P. M., on Friday, December 19th, 1913.

The Memorial Address was delivered by Frederick Jackson Turner, LL.D., of Harvard University.

Prof. M. M. Quaife, formerly of Lewis Institute, Chicago, a member of the Illinois State Historical Society, and a frequent contributor to its publications, has been appointed Superintendent of the Wisconsin Historical Society to succeed the late Reuben Gold Thwaites. The Wisconsin Society is to be congratulated upon securing the services of such a painstaking and thorough historian as Professor Quaife for this responsible position.

The Illinois State Historical Society also congratulates Professor Quaife upon this splendid opportunity of doing a great work in the field of American history.

ORGANIZE MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pursuant to a call made by the Relic Committee of the Old Settlers' Association, about fifty citizens of the county expressed their desire to organize a Montgomery County Historical Society, and quite a number of these, personally and by proxy, met in Hillsboro on September 26, 1913, and effected an organization, adopted by-laws and elected officers.

The following were selected as officers for the first year: Edward C. Richards, president; Judge Amos Miller, first vice-president; Mrs. Jane Vawters, second vice-president; Frank

P. Winchester, recording secretary; A. T. Strange, corresponding secretary; R. E. Gifford, treasurer; and Charles A. Ramsey, Stephen D. Canaday, David Ware, Mrs. Laura Clotfelter and Carl Weber were selected as an Executive Committee.

A letter was read from the Hon. J. Nick Perrin, of Belleville, in which he gives a concise and valuable history of Montgomery County, from its earliest history and up to its organization as a county. The letter is a valuable document, and on motion it was ordered spread on the minutes of the Society, and a vote of thanks sent to Mr. Perrin for the contribution. A committee, consisting of the president, secretary and corresponding secretary, was appointed to look up a suitable place to hold meetings and to preserve and place on exhibition such documents and relics as may from time to time be donated to the Society.

The meeting then adjourned subject to a call by the president.

MR. PERRIN'S LETTER.

Mr. Perrin's letter is as follows:

“Belleville, Illinois.

Mr. A. T. Strange, Hillsboro, Ill.

DEAR SIR:—Since arriving home from the Old Settlers' Picnic, where I met you for a few moments relative to the formation of a local historical association, I decided to send you some historical information that may be of service to you.

Montgomery County, whose area seems to be about 702 square miles, was settled as early as 1816 by Americans. Its organization as a county took place in 1821. It was named after Gen. Richard Montgomery. Montgomery was born in Ireland in 1736. He participated in the army with Wolfe. He was a delegate to the first Provincial Congress in New York City. He had settled in New York and married Chancellor Livingston's sister. He became a Brigadier-General in the Continental Army. He was second in Command to Schuyler in expedition to Canada. Through illness of Schuyler, the command devolved on him. He fell at Quebec in 1775.

Allow me now to trace the chain of title to your county in a systematic way as it descended through all its stages and through the various changes made from the time of the Northwest Territory through the Indiana and Illinois Territory, and through Illinois' existence as a state down to the present.

1790, Northwest Territory, embraced in St. Clair and Knox counties.

1801, Indiana Territory, embraced in St. Clair County.

1809, Illinois Territory, embraced in St. Clair County.

1812, embraced in Madison County.

1817, embraced in Bond and Madison counties.

1818, State of Illinois, embraced in Bond and Madison counties.

1821, State of Illinois, Montgomery County established. Embraced all the area of the present county except jut-off in extreme eastern portion, which was in Fayette County. Also embraced the southwest portion of the present Christian County.

1827, the jut-off in extreme eastern portion added so that Montgomery County embraced all its present area plus the southwest portion of Christian County.

1839, Dane County established.

1840, name changed to Christian. Southwest portion of present Christian County taken out of northeast part of Montgomery County and your present area has remained since as Montgomery County.

Your county containing its present area has belonged successively either wholly or in part to St. Clair, Knox, Madison, Bond, Fayette and Montgomery counties.

Your county was organized Feb. 12, 1821. See laws 1821, p. 142. As you will be 100 years old in 1921, it is highly appropriate that you form a historical association and make arrangements in ample time looking forward toward the celebration of your Centennial. Hoping that this data will be of some value to you and being ready at any time to be of whatever assistance I can be to you, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

J. NICK PERRIN."

E. S. WILLCOX OBSERVES TWO ANNIVERSARIES— MAKES PEORIA HISTORY.

"I don't know who could have told it, or how it leaked out, but it is true. I have been librarian of Peoria public library for twenty-two years today and in the library service in Peoria for forty-eight years today."

Librarian E. S. Willcox made this confession November 11, 1913. The day marked the passing of a milestone in the career of this man which few in present-day life can boast of attaining. For over forty of the forty-eight years Mr. Willcox has been a director of the several succeeding Peoria city libraries and has managed to maintain each successfully.

He grew reminiscent when questioned about his unique anniversary, and went on:

"Yes, fifty years ago when I came to Peoria from Galesburg, the city had a library of two thousand volumes, a library known as the 'City Library' and maintained by a system of fees which members were required to pay. Each member paid two dollars per year. It had been running four or five years when I took hold of it a little later. It was located in the block opposite the court house on Main street in one room upstairs. The librarian was a clergyman.

"I had been a teacher in Knox college and also librarian of the school library, but had been forced out through the ravages of the civil war on the student body. I, with some of the then older citizens of Peoria, built up Peoria's first free library.

AUTHOR OF BILL.

"Later, in 1872, I managed to get the state legislature to pass the 'Free Library Bill,' which provided for public libraries in all cities and which is still in force with similar laws in all other states of the union. I was the author of the bill and I did everything to see it worked out.

"In support of this bill we directors began to promote plans for building a new library. After some effort we got a fund started. Tobias Bradley gave \$1,000 to start it, and others came in until we raised \$10,000. With that we purchased Peoria's first public free library. It was the old Griswold residence at the corner of Main and Adams streets. We raised \$13,000 more money and remodeled the place; occupied it for a few years, borrowed \$32,000 on it, and built the present

'Old Library' building. The top floor of this building was used as the library and the lower floors were rented out for a good revenue. Some time later I was elected librarian and have since occupied that place.

SOLD FOR \$75,000.

"After my incumbency of office I found the place unsuited for the purpose and planned another building. We sold the property for \$75,000, got a free grant of land from the city and built the present Peoria Public Library on Monroe Street in 1897.

"When I started with the library there were 2,000 books; now there are 125,000 volumes, a branch library in Lincoln Park and a promise of another branch library for the north end of the city. The library is in good condition in every respect. We have room for expansion, both in books and building. The success which followed the library seems to have followed the properties on which it was begun, for only a few weeks ago the old site of the first free library was sold for over fifteen times what it cost forty-one years ago. Ah! times have changed."